

## Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COA-01 L-02 IO-10 DLOS-05 INT-05 CG-00

DOT-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 COME-00

TRSE-00 OES-05 EPA-04 AGR-10 /108 W

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R 230920Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5136

COMICEDEFOR

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USUN NEW YORK 421

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 0090

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR EFIS IC US

SUBJECT: PM'S VISIT TO US AND CANADA TIED TO FISHERIES ISSUES IN  
EDITORIAL

REF: USUN 195

ICELAND'S LARGEST CIRCULATION DAILY, MORGUNBLADID,  
IN JANUARY 22 EDITORIAL, STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF PRIME MINISTER'S  
TALKS WITH USG AND CANADIAN OFFICIALS TO GOI PLANS TO EXTEND  
FISHERIES JURISDICTION TO 200 MILES THIS YEAR. RELEVANT PORTION  
OF EDITORIAL FOLLOWS:

BEGIN QUOTE

IN ADDITION TO VISITING THE ICELANDIC COLONY (IN CANADA),  
THE PRIME MINISTER WILL MEET WITH OFFICIALS IN THE US AND CANADA  
ON THE FISHERIES QUESTION AND OTHER ISSUES CONNECTED WITH ICELAND'S  
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RELATIONS WITH THESE TWO NATIONS. THE PRIME MINISTER HAS ALREADY

HAD TALKS WITH JOHN SCALI, US AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND SOME US GOVERNMENT SPECIALISTS ON THE LAW OF THE SEA. THE AMERICANS WERE PREVIOUSLY VERY CONSERVATIVE ON THE FISHING LIMITS EXTENSION ISSUE, BUT THE OFFICIAL VIEW THERE HAS GREATLY CHANGED AS WAS APPARENT RECENTLY WHEN THE SENATE APPROVED THE BILL ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE. THE PRIME MINISTER'S DISCUSSIONS WITH THESE OFFICIALS THEREFORE HAVE GREAT IMPLICATIONS FOR ICELANDERS AS WE PREPARE TO EXTEND OUR FISHING LIMITS LATER THIS YEAR.

IN ADDITION TO UN ISSUES, THE FISHERIES LIMIT QUESTION WAS THE MAIN TOPIC AT THIS MEETING IN NEW YORK. THE PRIME MINISTER EXPLAINED IN DETAIL ICELAND'S PLANS TO EXTEND TO 200 MILES THIS YEAR. DEVELOPMENTS AT THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE WERE ALSO DISCUSSED. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID AFTER THE MEETING THAT IT WAS APPARENT THAT THE US HELD SIMILAR VIEWS TO OURS REGARDING THESE ISSUE, BUT THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD NOT TAKE ANY ACTION ON THE MATTER UNTIL AFTER THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THERE HAS BEEN A GREAT CHANGE IN THE POSITION OF THE US FROM BEING THE PRINCIPAL FOOT-DRAGGER ON THE FISHERIES JURISDICTION QUESTION.

IN CANADA, THE PRIME MINISTER WILL MEET WITH PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU. THE CANADIANS HAVE RECENTLY TAKEN A HARD LINE ON THE FISHING LIMITS ISSUE AND HAVE ADVANCED VIEWS SIMILAR TO OURS ON THESE MATTERS. THEREFORE IT IS IMPORTANT TO STRENGTHEN COOPERATION WITH THE CANADIANS ON THESE MATTERS, AND IT IS CERTAIN THAT THERE CAN BE NO BETTER GUARANTEE THAT THIS WILL OCCUR THAN THROUGH DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE TWO PRIME MINISTERS.

THE TRIP OF THE PRIME MINISTER THEREFORE HAS A TWOFOLD AIM. IT WILL STRENGTHEN TIES OF FRIENDSHIP WITH ICELANDERS IN CANADA BUT IT CAN ALSO BE EXPECTED THAT DISCUSSIONS WITH US AND CANADIAN OFFICIALS WILL STRENGTHEN COOPERATION AMONG OUR COUNTRIES ON LAW OF THE SEA MATTERS. BEFORE US IS A HARD STRUGGLE TO ACHIEVE VICTORY IN FISHING LIMITS MATTERS, AND A POSITIVE STAND BY SUCH NATIONS AS THE US AND CANADA COULD TIP THE BALANCE. END QUOTE.  
MARTIN

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## Message Attributes

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**To:** STATE  
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